

# THE FELLOWSHIP

*Your World Recovered*

December 2008

Volume 4

The Fellowship is a newsletter published by the Chemical Recovery ministry. The Fellowship is making recovery far more exciting, provocative, and high-spirited (no pun intended), than our addiction ever was. The news of this world is dominated by an earthly perspective. The Fellowship is a refreshing view of "everything under the sun" from the perspective of those formerly deeply entrenched in its vices and now free and grateful to share a unique perspective on life.

## THE ENEMY WITHIN

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. The Israelite people were unable to completely expel the indigenous peoples of Canaan from the territory that God gave them. Their continued presence amongst the Israelites would eventually turn God's people away from Him and obstruct His Holy mandate to possess every place they set their feet.

In practical terms, throughout their history Israel was never fully free of this pagan influence, which competed directly with the Living God for their affection. God's plan for His people contradicted the pagan worldview of the Canaanites. Israel's inability to expel their foreign influence necessitated a cultural compromise, a decision that would eventually lead to Israel's utterly complete consolidation into the surrounding Canaanite people. The Israelites lost their holy identity, and ultimately disappeared entirely as a sovereign state, because they refused to separate themselves from the world around them. Total Recovery dictates we should be careful about the relationships we cultivate and maintain. In an obvious sense we could never expect to remain sober if we chose to regularly accompany those still actively using. However, in a less obvious way, many of those convictions we have come to hold and value as part of our renewed mindset, may themselves be undermined and even eroded by unhealthy relationships and influences we would do well to end. Furthermore an unwillingness to discard and where necessary repent of associations that run counter to our values as Christians, will at a bare minimum stifle and retard any future spiritual growth. Nowhere is this reality more evident than in the realm of ideas.

Unfortunately there are now many who consider themselves to be Christians and yet espouse and even embrace other ideologies that clearly contradict their stated faith. Our tradition of Biblical Authority is founded upon the belief that God's word is the ultimate authority in our lives and as such informs our every opinion. On issue after issue from Abortion to Homosexuality our people have shown themselves willing to abandon the clear biblical teaching concerning these matters and, in effect turn a blind eye to the truth, so as to advance another agenda they value more highly. In 2 Cor 6: 17 the bible calls the believer to come out from the world and be separate. Sadly today many calling themselves faithful have decided on doing no such thing.

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## Recent Articles on the Web

Read these articles at

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## Staying Sober For The Holidays

(This article is excerpted. The full version can be read on [www.chemicalrecovery.org](http://www.chemicalrecovery.org).)

The holiday season is upon us once again. The parties are being planned and the food prepared. You too must prepare yourself for the struggles, temptations or flashbacks that could be winging their way in your direction even as you read this. Of course, the holidays are a time of celebration but for many of us, in the past, celebrating meant getting high or drunk.

This could be your first holiday sober and the memories could come flooding back. It would be foolish to face this season unprepared. So in light of this, here are some tips to help get you through the holidays sane and sober.



**Spend Time With God.**

**Failure To Plan Is A Plan For Failure**

**Seek Advice On Decisions You Make**

**Pray For Wisdom**

**Don't Take Chances**

**Safety In Numbers**

**Take In A Meeting**

**B.Y.O.S.** (Bring your own soda)

**People Who Play With Fire Get Burned**

**Just Say NO**

**Avoid HALT**

**Be Real**

**Stay Focused**

**Don't Drink, No Matter What!**

# THE SEEKER OF TRUTH

"You can't handle the truth!" Col. Nathan R. Jessup yells at Tom Cruises character in "A Few Good Men". In reality it was Col. Jessup himself that couldn't handle it. How well do we handle the truth? The world wants us to believe that the truth is relative and that there are no absolutes. Your truth and my truth is fine even if they conflict as long as we can show tolerance for one another.

The Bible is very definite that there is a truth and a non-truth. There is a right way and a wrong way, there is light and there is darkness. Hebrews 4:12 says

*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* There are no "gray" areas.

In recovery, we have to seek the truth. When we were using, our lives were nothing but one lie after another. We lied to ourselves that we did not have a problem, we lied to others that we were not using, we lied on our jobs, to our friends and to our families. For us to experience Total Recovery, we have to be Seekers of Truth.



Seeking truth means having people around you who will not tell you "what your itching ears want to hear" but will tell you what you need to hear. Seeking truth is seeing that you need Total Recovery not just sobriety. Seeking truth is not just accepting what the world tells you about anything but doing what is necessary to determine the facts.

If we are willing to become seekers of truth; Ephesians 4:14 makes it clear what will be the benefits of our decision.

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming." Who doesn't want this for their lives?

**Q:** The church isn't studying the bible with nearly as many people as it used to. What do you do if your CR group isn't seeing newcomers for long periods of time?

**A:** Originally CR was set up as a tool to help new comers to the church, who had a history with drug abuse, to get prepared for baptism and a life committed to abstinence from mood altering substances. Men and woman who participated in CR did so for a time and eventually graduated from CR presumably with the tools and convictions that would enable them to be sober members of the church.

The significant drop in newcomers to church and consequently to CR forced us to evaluate the Chemical Recovery ministry and what should become of it with little to no new people coming in to utilize it's services. In the absence of newbie's, the old-timers of CR, who typically led these groups, found themselves with more time to talk about their lives. We learned in these talks how much we had neglected our own Total Recovery having been so focused on the recovery of others.

This focus on fixing others compromised greatly our own spiritual health and led us to view CR in a very different light. CR would change as a result from a group looking solely to help people early in recovery to a group where one addict could help another addict, via an Eternal Fellowship, indefinitely and without respect to time in Recovery. While we do recognize the differences between the one early in recovery and those with some time under their belts the commonalities far outweigh those differences and all of us are charged with receiving truth like a child. Our groups now consist of people ranging from those having been in CR for 15 years to people only 3 weeks into their recovery, all of which are there to help themselves and others. Jesus came for the sick not the healthy; it is in this spirit we come to CR now, having acknowledged that we are poor in spirit and always need the help afforded by Jesus via CR.



## Question & Answer

Sign up to receive this newsletter at [www.chemicalrecovery.org](http://www.chemicalrecovery.org)

**Total Recovery | Biblical Authority | Accountability | Truth In Love | Empathy | Willingness To Change | Eternal Fellowship | Outreach**

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